

## **Key Projected Dates for People with Medicare who Qualify for the Low Income Subsidy (LIS)**

CMS has outlined below important dates for people with Medicare who qualify for the low-income subsidy.

Who is eligible for the low income subsidy: People with Medicare who are also Medicaid full-benefit dual eligibles, receive Supplemental Security Income benefits and for whom their States pays part of their Medicare cost sharing (Medicare Saving Program) are deemed to be eligible for the low income subsidy and do not need to apply. Those people with Medicare who are not deemed but whose income is below 150% of poverty and who have limited assets should apply for the subsidy. A person may apply through the Social Security Administration and their State. SSA will work at a community level to equip organizations, including the States, to use the SSA application and to submit the applications to SSA for their eligibility determination. CMS strongly encourages people to apply using the SSA application and eligibility process.

The dates listed are of particular interest to those who help beneficiaries with lower incomes, such as States and partners. Please note that the calendar will be updated periodically.

<b>2005</b>	
<b>March – June</b>	<i>Awareness Phase for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit</i>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SSA published Notice of Proposed Rule Making on LIS applications</li><li>• 15<sup>th</sup> - SSA conducts a pilot test involving 2,050 LIS applications in <b>42</b> zip codes</li></ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CMS releases instructions to states on how to process State eligibility determinations.</li><li>• 21<sup>st</sup> - LIS web tool on <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a></li><li>• 29<sup>th</sup> – SSA begins ongoing training of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties on LIS</li><li>• 30<sup>th</sup> - LIS Fact Sheet available through <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a></li></ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May 1<sup>st</sup> - SSA begins accepting LIS applications onsite in the community, through community events</li><li>• May 2<sup>nd</sup> - SSA makes online subsidy qualifier informational tool available</li><li>• Mid-May - CMS mails notice to the LIS deemed population</li><li>• May 27<sup>th</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup> - SSA mails LIS application to potential eligibles (i.e. those who are not deemed)</li></ul>

<b>June</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-June - CMS mails notice to SSI-only individuals in the LIS deemed population</li> </ul>
<b>July</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> - SSA makes LIS online application available</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> - SSA begins processing LIS applications -</li> <li>• Begin mailing LIS decisions to applicants</li> </ul>
<b>October – December</b> <i>Enrollment Phase of Outreach and Education Campaign</i>
<b>October</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Medicare &amp; You</i> handbook mailed to all beneficiaries, with drug plan information</li> <li>• Begin routine monthly notice of deemed status to new non-full duals (MSPs and SSI-only)</li> <li>• Mid-October - CMS assigns full-benefit dual eligibles to prescription drug plans and notifies them of assignment</li> <li>• Mid-October - CMS notifies plans of full dual auto-enrollees</li> </ul>
<b>November</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> - Begin routine monthly auto-enrollment of new full dual eligibles</li> </ul>
<b>December</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31<sup>st</sup> - Last chance for full-benefit duals to change plans prior to auto-enrollment taking effect</li> </ul>
<b>2006</b>
<b>January –May</b> <i>Urgency Message Phase</i>
<b>January</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> - Drug Benefit begins</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> - Auto-enrollment effective for full-benefit duals</li> </ul>
<b>February</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mail reminder notice to people who have not yet enrolled in a plan offering prescription drugs.</li> </ul>
<b>May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated enrollment of non-full dual LIS eligibles, with coverage effective June 1, 2006</li> </ul>